

**Section 7: Michigan Curriculum Framework**

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## ***MICHIGAN CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK***

*Numerous federal laws, including the recently enacted No Child Left Behind Act, require that all students, including those with disabilities, be included in a single state accountability system. In addition, they require that all assessments within the system be based on common, high state standards. While Michigan does not have a single state curriculum, it has approved “Model Content Standards” for local districts to use in developing their own curricula. The following information describes Michigan’s standards and benchmarks and indicates where to go for additional information on these subjects.*

### **Standards and Benchmarks**

In Michigan, no two school districts have exactly the same economic or student base. Therefore, rather than defining a one-size-fits-all curriculum that does not consider the unique needs of districts and students, the Michigan State Board of Education (SBE), in 1995, approved Model Content Standards for curriculum. The content standards were developed by parents, educators, business leaders, and university professors, and provide descriptions of what students should know and be able to do in certain subject areas. In addition, benchmarks (or learning objectives) were drafted for each content area to further clarify the content standards. The standards and benchmarks for Michigan can be found in a document titled *Michigan Curriculum Framework*, which is accessible on the MDE’s Web site at **[www.mi.gov/mde](http://www.mi.gov/mde)**.

The *Michigan Curriculum Framework* is a resource for helping Michigan’s public and private schools design, implement, and assess their curricula. Subjects outlined in the document include English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Standards have also been developed for fine arts, career and employability, technology, world languages, health education, and physical education. To learn more about these curricula, contact Charles (Chuck) Allan, Acting Supervisor, (517) 241-2219, [allanc@michigan.gov](mailto:allanc@michigan.gov).

For a quick overview of Michigan’s Model Content Standards, you may obtain a brochure titled “High Standards for Achieving and Succeeding.” To date, over 540,000 brochures have been distributed to schools and districts for use with educators and parents. For a copy of the brochure, contact Brock Droste at [drosteb@michigan.gov](mailto:drosteb@michigan.gov).

## **MI CLiMB**

To provide parents and educators with additional information on Michigan's benchmarks, the Office of School Excellence has developed a major new resource called MI CLiMB, an acronym for Clarifying Language in Michigan Benchmarks.

The goal of MI CLiMB is to further explain each benchmark by developing a clarification statement, an instructional example, an assessment example, and resources (both print and web) related to the benchmark. The completed MI CLiMB product was distributed in spring 2002 as a CD-ROM that integrates mathematics, science, language arts, fine arts, and social studies.

To learn more about MI CLiMB, visit the Michigan Technology Implementation Project's (MTIP) Web site at **[www.MTIP.org](http://www.MTIP.org)**. Additional information can also be obtained from the following sources.

- MI CLiMB training is coordinated by the Center for Sustained Learning Regions. For more information about the regions or about the training content, contact your local representative or Sam LoPresto, Center for Sustained Learning Regions, 1001 Centennial Way, Suite 300, Lansing, MI 48917, 517-327-9263, [lopresto@gomasa.org](mailto:lopresto@gomasa.org).
- College and university teacher preparation programs should contact Kathleen Stacey at Eastern Michigan University, 734-487-6570, [cla\\_stacey@online.emich.edu](mailto:cla_stacey@online.emich.edu).
- Parochial schools should contact Glen Walstra at the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools, 517-372-0662, [gwalstra@m-a-n-s.org](mailto:gwalstra@m-a-n-s.org).